

**NOTICE for PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**Rat Creek Salvage Project Environmental Assessment**  
**Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Wisdom Ranger District**  
**Wisdom, MT**  
**Beaverhead County**

A review Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Rat Creek Salvage Project. The project is on National Forest System lands approximately 15 miles west of Wisdom, Montana. The salvage harvest proposal would recover and utilize timber from trees that are dead or dying within the 2007 Rat Creek wildfire area. Trees that are likely to survive, are not infected with dwarf mistletoe, and are not infested with mountain pine beetle would remain. Salvage harvest would occur on 35 units ranging in size from 3 to 320 acres. These units total approximately 1,652 acres across the 26,600 acre wildfire. The proposed harvest units would result in 11 forest openings greater than 40 acres on lands suitable for timber production activities. Most of the road system needed to provide access for harvest operations is in place; however, approximately 7 miles of temporary road would be built, and then obliterated at the end of the project.

Copies of the EA are available at the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Wisdom Ranger District Office, Wisdom, MT in either paper or electronic formats. The EA is also posted on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest website, at <http://fs.usda.gov/bdnf/projects>.

Comments are invited on this project and the comment period ends 30 days following the date of publication of this legal notice in the *Montana Standard*. This publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit comments on the proposed action. Those wishing to comment on this proposal should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. Only those who provide comment or otherwise express interest in the proposed action during the comment period will be eligible as appellants. Interest expressed or comments provided on this project prior to or after the close of this comment period will not constitute standing for appeal purposes. Comments must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.

Comments must be submitted to Bruce Ramsey, Forest Supervisor, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, 420 Barrett, Street, Dillon, MT 59725. Comments may be submitted by email in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html) to [comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge-wisdom@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge-wisdom@fs.fed.us). Comments may also be hand delivered weekdays 8:00 am - 4:30 pm at the address above. The subject line must contain the name of the project for which you are submitting comments. To be eligible for appeal, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Names and addresses of people who comment will become part of the public record.

The Responsible Official for this proposed project is Bruce Ramsey, Forest Supervisor, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. For more information you can contact Russell Riebe, District Ranger, Wisdom Ranger District, (406) 689-3243 or John Natvig, Project Team Leader, (605) 745-3253

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